

two paragraphs upon the effect of roentgen rays. The chapter on degenerative diseases includes the muscular dystrophies, the amyotrophies, the hereditary-familial ataxias, chronic progressive chorea, infectious chorea, familial amaurotic idiocy. It is briefly and clearly written. The twelfth chapter gives a fair summary of the tumours of the nervous system. The main points of difference between American and French schools of classification are mentioned in passing. The last chapter concerns congenital malformations, including hydrocephalus and tuberous sclerosis. In addition, there is a very useful appendix, with notes upon autopsy technique, fixation, and a few of the standard staining methods. Some tables of statistics concerning brain-weight and relative data are included. There is a bibliography which contains key references.

This is a welcome volume, and should serve its purpose as a general guide to the student of neuro-pathology and neurologist and as a stimulus toward further research. For special knowledge the reader must search the literature and use his microscope.

Histopathology of the Peripheral and Central Nervous Systems. George B. Hassin, M.D., Professor of Neurology, University of Illinois. 491 pages, illustrated. Price \$6.00. William Wood & Co., Baltimore, 1933.

The author has written this volume as a supplement to the information to be obtained from clinical neurological textbooks.

The work is divided into three main parts, dealing respectively with the diseases of the peripheral nerves, the spinal cord and the brain, and it ends with a section describing the histological technical methods in use in the author's laboratory.

In the section devoted to peripheral nerve diseases, a chapter describing the diseases of muscles is included.

Under diseases of the spinal cord the author includes his personal observations of the histological changes found in syringomyelia. He emphasizes the importance of the finding of small, scattered, focal degenerative changes in concussion of the spinal cord. In this section he also describes in full the results of his detailed investigations on the histopathology of tabes dorsalis.

Encephalitis is discussed fully at the beginning of the third part of the work. The multitudinous types of inflammatory brain disease are described, and the author groups these types into infiltrative, toxic and suppurative. This chapter is followed by those dealing with syphilis of the brain and the diseases of cerebral blood vessels. The effects of arteriosclerosis are fully discussed in a separate chapter. Chapters on traumatic lesions, involutional degenerations and extra-pyramidal diseases are followed by one dealing with diseases of the ventricles and meninges, in which the author's views as to the causation of hydrocephalus and sub-dural hæmatoma are fully considered. This section ends with chapters on tumours of the brain, brain intoxications, and a brief summary of some histological findings in epilepsy and dementia præcox.

The final section on technical methods is valuable as a guide amongst the immense numbers of histological procedures which have been evolved during the last few years.

The book as a whole deals practically entirely, as its title indicates, with the microscopical pathology of nervous diseases, and the omission of gross pathological features must detract from its value as a textbook for general use. It will, therefore, be consulted mainly by those who are interested in the finer pathology of the nervous system.

The volume is fully illustrated by good photomicrographs.

Nutrition. Graham Lusk, Sc.D., M.D., LL.D., Late Professor of Physiology, Cornell University Medical College. *Clio Medica* No. 10. 142 pages, illustrated. Price \$1.50. Paul B. Hoeber, New York, 1933.

Much that has been written on the history of nutrition deals with the era following Lavoisier's classical experiments on respiration. Sanctorius is usually credited with being the first to study experimental nutrition. The present book takes us back a good deal further, back indeed to the days of Imhotep (B.C. 2980), the first physician mentioned in history, and traces the development of the science to the present day. The newer knowledge of nutrition, dietetics and vitamins, is considered very briefly. The material dealing with the period preceding Lavoisier is particularly interesting and novel. It includes numerous quotations from the original manuscripts. In this way the reader is able to grasp fully the nature of the arguments on which some of the mediaeval theories of nutrition were based.

The era following Lavoisier is presented in more detail, and while the size of the book necessarily limits the discussion to the main purpose, the author has been able to present a limited number of original investigations. In some instances controverted views are discussed in order to give an idea of the nature of the evidence on which our present beliefs are based.

Manuel de Technique Psychometrique. Gaston Lefebvre de Bellefeuille, F.R.C.P.(C.), Professor of Clinical Psychiatry, University of Montreal. 177 pages. Price 40c. Copies obtainable from Committee for Mental Hygiene of Province of Quebec, 515 St. Gabriel St., Montreal, 1933.

The *Manuel de Technique Psychometrique*, edited by Dr. de Bellefeuille, and published by the Mental Hygiene Committee of the Province of Quebec, constitutes a valuable contribution to the medical literature in the French language of the North American Continent. Based on the mental tests of Binet and Simon, with the added revisions of Kulhman and Stanford, it is, the reviewer believes, the first time, at least in the French language, that all these tests and revisions have been gathered together in one volume, so that the intelligence of a child of three months, as well as that of a person of adult age, can be studied by following the rules laid down in this compilation.

Dr. de Bellefeuille adds an original note to these revisions by the adoption of a vocabulary of a hundred words, a graded selection which will greatly help in forming a general idea of the child's or adult's knowledge of the meaning of words. Speaking of words and the necessity of simple language in meeting the child, and quoting Drs. Binet and Simon to that effect, the author states that these authorities, writing of their method, say "our expressions are not correct, but we know they are easily understood," and again "these expressions are not faultless in style, but they have the advantage of being easily understood." To a certain extent the author of this book underwent the same difficulty in questioning the French-Canadian child as Drs. Binet and Simon experienced in dealing with their young compatriots in France. By patient observation in the examination of hundreds of French-Canadian children he has acquired their differences of expression and admirably uses their vocabulary whenever necessary, in order that they may quickly and thoroughly grasp the meaning of the questions he asks them.

This book will prove a valuable acquisition to the family practitioner, and as most of our English medical men can at least translate French, the simple and flowing style of the author will offer no obstacles. To the French members of the profession, it will prove a great boon—almost a necessity—in dealing